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CHINA-VIETNAM-CAMBODIA: Restrained Response

Fighting continued yesterday at the non-Communist Cambodian resistance base at Nong Samet, with Vietnamese troops still occupying the eastern half of the camp. There has been little evident Chinese military activity along the Sino-Vietnamese border in response to Vietnam's attack on Tuesday at Nong Samet. Meanwhile, commentary in the Chinese press on the sixth anniversary of the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia has been muted.

Comment:

The Chinese may be limiting their response until Soviet First Deputy Premier Arkhipov leaves China tomorrow. In any case, Chinese restraint does not reflect a change in policy. Chinese leaders announced on Arkhipov's arrival that Moscow's continued support to Vietnam remains a key obstacle to better Sino-Soviet political relations.